

## **Tenacious Faith**

Acts 21:1-17

**Acts 21:1** Everyone said good-byes...Paul and team left & sailed to island of Cos...then, Rhodes and Patara

**Acts 21:2** *And finding a ship: larger vessel, ...reached Tyre in two or three days.*

**Acts 21:3** Sailed near of Cyprus... Syria. Stopped at Tyre to unload cargo

**Acts 21:4** Found believers in Tyre and stayed 7 days. These believers warned Paul not go to Jerusalem.

**Henry Ward Beecher:** *Paul was devoid of the artistic sense, that he traveled through cities of Asia, packed with things of beauty, and artistic merit and value, and never by a line referred to one of them.*

**Dr. Parker:** *there was no scenery to Paul; there was no geography. There was nothing but lost humanity, and the redeeming cross of Christ.*

**G.C.Morgan:** *Do Christian travelers today, calling at Tyre, seek out the disciples? Is it not too often the case that when travelers are far away from home, they try and miss the disciples for that occasion, and see-meet everyone, and everything else.*

Spirit of early Christians: Sought out fellowship!

*who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem.*

Holy Spirit spoke to them and they interpreted information – don't go!

Mt Hen: *They made the wrong interpretation.*

1 Kings 13: 23-26 Unnamed Prophet

**Acts 21:5** *...accomplished (finished) those days, we departed ...All believers, women and children, came with us out of the city. and we kneeled down ...and prayed.* Identifying mark of Child of God. Love for Brethren! John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:7-9

**Acts 21:6** said good-byes and got on ship. All believers went back to homes.

**Acts 21:7** ... *saluted* (greeted – said hi to) *the brethren, and abode with them one day*. Paul loved to be with God's people.

**Acts 21:8** *Caesarea*: Roman capital of Palestine. *House of Philip*: One of 7 original deacons in church in Jerusalem. First foreign missionary ...to Samaritans. Won Ethiopian Eunuch to Christ... evangelized coastal cities of Palestine.

Phillips: *Philip was a Hellenistic Jew and a broad-minded man.*

**Acts 21:9** Had four godly daughters who had gift of prophesying. Not unusual in early church for women to prophesy (predictions). Doesn't mean they were preachers.

*Virgins*: unmarried daughters. Implied virgin until married.

**Acts 21:10** *Agabus*. Met him in Antioch after church began to reach out to Gentiles. Acts 11:27-28. Prophesied of a worldwide famine. Came true.

**Acts 21:11** *Common attire*: loose flowing robes, outer garments bound by a girdle or sash around the body.

Tie down loose garments with girdle or sash to run.

*and said, ... This is your last warning!*

**Acts 21:12** All people heard words... begged Paul not to go to Jerusalem.

**Acts 21:13** Why crying and making me so sad *for I am ready* ... am ready to go to prison for Christ and to die for Him.

Phillips... *he never would have forgiven himself had he yielded to pressure in a matter about which he had such strong personal convictions. ...*

*for I am ready ... to die at Jerusalem for name of the Lord Jesus.*

To suffer persecution...physical discomfort... die—ultimate discomfort.

Matthew 16:24-26; Luke 14:33; Luke 9:62

**Acts 21:14** Paul's friends finally gave in.

*We can't change you or your plans so we leave you in the hands of a sovereign God.*

Why want to go to Jerusalem?

- Cash delivery
- Unification of Jews and Gentiles.

**Acts 21:15** *Carriages*: baggage.

**Acts 21:16** Some of the Christians in Caesarea accompanied Paul to Jerusalem.

Mnason of Cyprus. Charter member of church in Jerusalem.

**Acts 21:17** ...*brethren received us gladly.*

Why? Money!

## **So What?**

1. Paul's love for the brethren.
2. Will of God sometimes contrary to spiritual advisors.
3. Tenacious faith – view of the cross. Attitude toward suffering.